

Message Text

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ORIGIN PC-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 NSC-05 SS-15 IGA-02 SP-02
L-03 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DHA-05 AID-05
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-----047769 151916Z /70

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247029

FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: PEACE CORPS

1. PEACE CORPS (MARY KING, DEPUTY DIRECTOR/ACTION), NSC STAFF AND STATE HAVE RECENTLY BEEN DISCUSSING THE GENERAL ISSUE OF RETURN OF PEACE CORPS (PC) VOLUNTEERS TO INDIA AS WELL AS THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PRESIDENT RAISING THIS ISSUE WITH PRIME MINISTER DESAI IN NEW DELHI. BEFORE SUGGESTING THAT THE PRESIDENT RAISE THIS ISSUE WE WANT TO ASSURE THAT THE INDIAN RESPONSE WOULD BE POSITIVE. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD RAISE THIS ISSUE WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S SECRETARY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND SEEK AT LEAST AN INFORMAL INDICATION THAT SUCH AN INITIATIVE
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WOULD NOT BE UNWELCOME OR EMBARRASSING. PEACE CORPS LOOKS FORWARD TO MEETING WITH YOU DURING FIRST WEEK OF NOVEMBER TO REVIEW THE RESULTS OF YOUR DISCUSSIONS.

2. WE STRESS ONE IMPORTANT ASPECT OF PEACE CORPS' BACKGROUND. THE QUOTE COUNTRY AGREEMENT END QUOTE IS STILL IN EFFECT. IN OTHER WORDS WHEN PEACE CORPS CLOSED ITS OPERATION ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1976 IT WAS A UNILATERAL DECISION TO CEASE ACTIVITY BUT NO FORMAL TERMINATION OF THE ORIGINAL SIGNED AGREEMENT TOOK PLACE. THEREFORE THERE

WOULD BE NO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY IN ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM THERE ONCE THE VOLUNTEER REQUESTS WERE RECEIVED AND PROJECTS WERE DEVELOPED.

3. PEACE CORPS OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED TO US THAT A RENEWAL OF THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN INDIA WOULD BE ACHIEVED BY MELDING THE BEST FROM THE OLD PROGRAM WITH THE POSITIVE NEW DIRECTIONS THE ENTIRE PEACE CORPS' AGENCY HAS RECENTLY EMBARKED UPON UNDER THE NEW LEADERSHIP OF THIS ADMINISTRATION. THE OVER FIVE THOUSAND VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVED IN INDIA OVER A PERIOD OF 15 YEARS PARTICIPATED IN PROJECTS RANGING FROM VILLAGE LEVEL FOOD PRODUCTION IN LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY AND CROPS TO FISHERIES EXTENSION AND EDUCATION. AT THE TIME OF THE PHASEOUT THERE WERE PROJECTS BEING COMPLETED IN THREE STATES -- RAJASTHAN, PUNJAB AND TAMIL NADU ALTHOUGH EARLIER IN ITS HISTORY PEACE CORPS HAD SERVED IN EVERY OTHER STATE EXCEPT KASHMIR.

4. PEACE CORPS PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT HAS TRADITIONALLY HAD A UNIQUE FOCUS ON GRASS ROOTS, PEOPLE TO PEOPLE PROJECTS. THE NEW LEADERSHIP OF ACTION/CONFIDENTIAL

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PEACE CORPS HAS RECOMMITTED ITSELF TO THIS APPROACH COMBINED WITH EMPHASIS ON PRACTICAL VILLAGE TECHNOLOGIES. PROJECTS ARE AIMED AT MEETING THE BASIC HUMAN NEEDS OF THE POOREST POPULATIONS. IN HEALTH AND NUTRITION AREAS PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS COULD TRAIN COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSISTANTS, WORK IN MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH, VILLAGE NUTRITION EDUCATION, HEALTH EDUCATION AND DISEASE PREVENTION IN CONNECTION WITH GOI'S APPLIED NUTRITION PROGRAMS (ANP) AND VILLAGE LEVEL HEALTH SCHEMES (VLHS). IN FOOD PRODUCTION AND WATER PROGRAMS PEACE CORPS CAN FIELD VOLUNTEERS TO WORK IN VILLAGE LEVEL FOOD PRODUCTION PROGRAMS, IN AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS STORAGE AND MARKETING, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, FISHERIES, MILK PRODUCTS, TUBE-WELL DEVELOPMENT AND POTABLE WATER EXTENSION. TO REPEAT, VILLAGE LEVEL AVAILABLE TECHNOLOGY, HEALTH AND FOOD PRODUCTION PROJECTS ARE THE AGENCY'S PRIORITY PROJECTS.

5. AN EXPANDED ROLE IS ENVISAGED FOR HOST COUNTRY NATIONALS IN THE FORM OF A NEW PROGRAMMING SYSTEM WHICH CALLS FOR A MUTUAL AND SHARED PROJECT PLANNING PROCESS. INDEED PEACE CORPS BASICALLY OFFERS TO HELP INDIA IMPLEMENT PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS OF ITS OWN DESIGN. LINKS WITH OTHER AID DONOR AGENCIES SUCH AS AID CAN BE UTILIZED WHERE RESOURCES CAN BE SHARED AND TO AVOID DUPLICATION. A WIDE RANGE OF EXPERTS FROM U.S. UNIVERSITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS CAN BE EXPECTED TO SHARE IN TRAINING OF

VOLUNTEERS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF HOST COUNTRY PROJECTS. PEACE CORPS WOULD BE GUIDED BY GOI'S PRIORITIES BOTH AS TO NATURE AND EXTENT OF PROGRAM, AND GEOGRAPHIC LOCATIONS.

6. PEACE CORPS OFFICIALS WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ASSESSMENT OF THE FEASIBILITY OF COLLABORATING WITH GOI'S RURAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICE CORPS OR OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WHICH MIGHT BE ESTABLISHING THEIR OWN PROGRAMS IN RURAL
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INDIA SIMILAR TO THE WORK OF THE PEACE CORPS. THE NEW LEADERSHIP IS INTERESTED IN FOSTERING DEVELOPMENT OF DOMESTIC VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROGRAMS WHERE FEASIBLE. PCV'S ARE WILLING TO GET THEIR HANDS DIRTY (SO TO SPEAK) IN REMOTE RURAL AREAS WHERE IT IS OFTEN DIFFICULT TO PLACE HOST COUNTRY NATIONALS. THEY ARE TRAINED UNDER NEWLY IMPROVED PROGRAMS, IN LOCAL LANGUAGES, SKILLS AND CROSS-CULTURAL SENSITIVITY. IMPROVEMENT OF TRAINING AND PROGRAMMING IS AN IMPORTANT EMPHASIS OF THE NEW LEADERSHIP.

7. IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL DATA TO MAKE A PERSONAL ASSESSMENT OF THIS MATTER, PEACE CORPS CAN PROVIDE THIS.

8. NEITHER WE NOR PEACE CORPS WANT TO HAVE VOLUNTEERS RETURNED IF GOI FELT POLITICALLY PRESSED BY PRESIDENT CARTER'S DISCUSSION AND SYMBOLIC IMPLICATION RESULTING FROM HIS MOTHER'S TERM OF SERVICE. THEREFORE WE CONSIDER IT BEST FOR YOU TO TAKE A POLITICAL SOUNDING OF GOI'S RECEPTIVITY TO PEACE CORPS UNDER THE NEW LEADERSHIP OF THIS ADMINISTRATION.

9. PRESIDENT CARTER SENT A MESSAGE TO THE REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING THE U.N. ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA CONFERENCE ON WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT IN NOUAKCHOTT, MAURITANIA ON OCTOBER 1, 1977 STATING THE FOLLOWING:

"THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO WORK WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD IN THIS PROCESS OF INTEGRATED HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT WAYS WE CAN CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR EFFORTS IS THROUGH THE PEACE CORPS. I AM PROUD OF THE WORK PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS WHO, THROUGH INDIVIDUAL SERVICE, DEMONSTRATE IN A MOST
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PERSONAL WAY OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD... WOMEN AND MEN...AND OUR DESIRE TO WORK WITH THEM IN THEIR EFFORTS TO EXPAND THEIR OPPORTUNITIES AND DEVELOP THEIR RESOURCES."

AT THE UNITED NATIONS ON OCTOBER 4, 1977 PRESIDENT CARTER
IN HIS REMARKS TO AFRICAN HEADS OF STATE, STATED:

"I MIGHT ALSO ADD THAT WE WANT TO HAVE VERY CLOSE AND
FRIENDLY BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE UNITED
STATES AND EVERY ONE OF YOUR COUNTRIES. WE NOW HAVE
ABOUT 2,000 PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN 23 NATIONS IN AFRICA.
IN THE PAST I KNOW THAT THIS HAS BEEN AN EFFORT ABOUT
WHICH THERE HAS BEEN SOME DOUBT. BUT IF YOU HAVE A SPECIAL
NEED FOR TECHNICAL HELP OR HELP WITH AGRICULTURE, EDUCA-
TION, HEALTH, IF YOU WOULD LET ME KNOW OR SECRETARY OF
STATE VANCE OR AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG, WE WOULD BE GLAD
TO PARTICIPATE WITH YOU ON THIS BASIS, WITH YOUR HAVING
CONTROL, OF COURSE, OVER HOW THESE VOLUNTEERS MIGHT
STRENGTHEN THE TIES BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND YOURS.

WE DO THIS AND OFFER THIS IN A SPIRIT OF PARTNERSHIP AND
EQUALITY. AND, OF COURSE, WE ALSO WELCOME DELEGATIONS OF
YOUR OWN CITIZENS OR INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS OR OTHERS WHO
WOULD LIKE TO COME TO OUR COUNTRY AND TO LEARN ABOUT US
AND FOR CLOSER TIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR PEOPLE.

I MIGHT CLOSE BY SAYING THAT WE ARE VERY EAGER TO HAVE A
REDUCTION IN EXPENDITURES FOR WEAPONS AND ARMS, AS I
MENTIONED IN MY SPEECH THIS MORNING. WE HAVE A SUBSTANTIAL
AID PROGRAM. OUR HOPES WOULD BE THAT THIS COULD BE IN THE
FORM OF HUMANITARIAN AID AND NOT MILITARY AID." VANCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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